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**OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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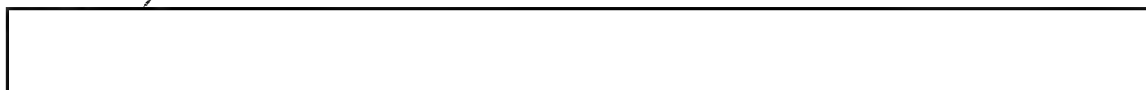
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5. **ACTION BY RHEE STRENGTHENS YI KI-PUNG AS
SUCCESSOR** [redacted]

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2. USSR CALLS FOR "TEMPORARY" BAN ON TESTING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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Soviet Foreign Ministry press chief Leonid Ilychev told a news conference in Moscow on 26 March that the USSR is prepared to conclude an agreement for the "temporary" suspension of nuclear

tests. The new proposal was made primarily in response to the Bermuda proposal for registration of tests with the UN and international observation of tests. Ilychev asserted that the registration of nuclear tests "does not solve the basic problem of the removal of the harmful influence of atomic and hydrogen explosions on human health." Ilychev repeated Moscow's 18 March proposal that the problem of terminating tests should be treated separately from other problems of disarmament.

Moscow's new proposal is intended to exploit growing sentiment among numerous groups and several governments for a complete cessation of nuclear tests. Ilychev gave special attention to a note sent by the Japanese government to the powers on the subcommittee requesting a suspension of all nuclear tests. He said the Japanese appeal to the USSR "gives reason to believe that the Soviet proposals on a permanent--or at least temporary--cessation of atomic and hydrogen tests will be supported by the Japanese government!"

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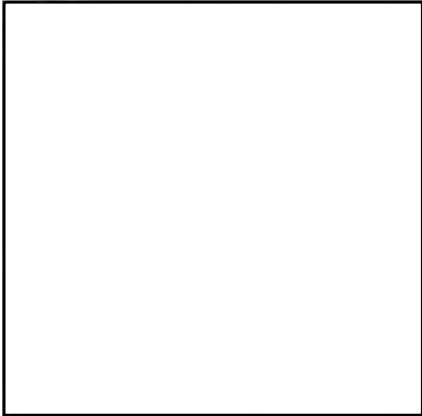
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5. ACTION BY RHEE STRENGTHENS YI KI-PUNG AS SUCCESSOR

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Announcement that President Rhee has adopted the 21-year-old son of his friend and political associate, Assembly speaker and Liberal Party chairman Yi Ki-pung, has been interpreted as an open demonstration of Rhee's desire that the Assembly speaker succeed him in the presidency. It may encourage new attempts by Rhee's followers to remove the Democratic vice-president, Chang Myon, from the succession, either by legislation or by violence.

Rhee's action, a customary Korean method by which a childless couple acquires an heir, will tend to solidify the party behind Yi despite his defeat in the 1956 vice-presidential election.